

I'd like to welcome all of you here today for this Research Subcommittee markup of H.R. 4030, the Congressional Medal for Outstanding Contributions in Math and Science Education Act of 2004, which Ranking Member Johnson and I introduced last week. The Congressional Medal is intended to encourage companies to work with K-12 schools to improve math and science education and recognize the companies that do an exceptional job already.

Business, industry and other private groups have so much to offer and so much to gain by helping to excite an interest in students and keep that interest and ability burning as they enter college or begin their careers. Many companies are already doing a lot. In addition to recognizing their efforts, H.R. 4030 requires the National Science Foundation to make information about award winners publicly

available so that examples of techniques and strategies can be utilized around the country.

This bill also creates separate categories of awards for private entities with more than 500 employees and those with 500 or less employees. Everyone from large corporations and associations to small manufacturers and community organizations has a role to play in improving math and science education and should be able to receive recognition for their efforts.

H.R. 4030 establishes criteria that NSF shall consider in determining medal finalists and winners, including priority consideration for evidence of improved student achievement in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics by students. The legislation also allows for the consideration of additional criteria established by the Director of NSF.

The manager's amendment makes several technical corrections, and includes language suggested by Ranking Member Johnson that I have accepted ensuring that, in determining medal finalists and winners, NSF give consideration to efforts that assist female and minority students. I thank Ms. Johnson for her help with this amendment and encourage all members to vote for the amendment and final passage.